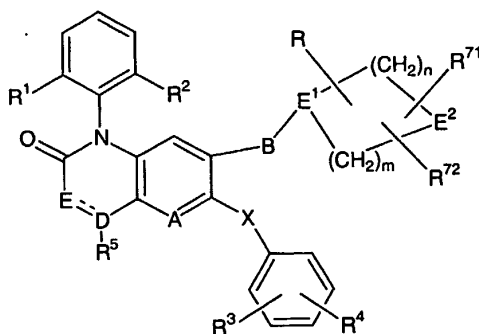


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound represented by chemical formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

A is N, or CH;

B is -C₁₋₆alkyl-, -C₀₋₃alkyl-O-C₀₋₃alkyl-, -C₀₋₃alkyl-NH-C₀₋₃alkyl-,
 -C₀₋₃alkyl-S-C₀₋₃alkyl-, -C₀₋₃alkyl-PH-C₀₋₃alkyl-, -C₀₋₃alkyl-C(O)-C₀₋₃alkyl-, or a direct bond;

X is -C₁₋₆alkyl-, -C₀₋₃alkyl-O-C₀₋₃alkyl-, -C₀₋₃alkyl-NH-C₀₋₃alkyl-,
 -C₀₋₃alkyl-S-C₀₋₃alkyl-, -C₀₋₃alkyl-PH-C₀₋₃alkyl-, -C₀₋₃alkyl-C(O)-C₀₋₃alkyl-, or a direct bond;

D is C or N;

E is N, O, NH, CH₂, or CH;

R, R⁷¹, and R⁷² each independently is hydrogen, OH, -C₀₋₄alkyl-O-C₀₋₄alkyl-, -C₀₋₄alkyl-C(O)-C₀₋₄alkyl-, -C₀₋₄alkyl-C(O)-O-C₀₋₄alkyl-, or C₁₋₄alkyl, any alkyl optionally substituted with 1-6 groups, each group
 independently being -OH, -NH₂, -NH-CH₃, -N(CH₃)₂, or halogen;

n is 1, 2, 3, or 4;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

n+m is 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; optionally, one of n CH₂ and one of m CH₂ are bridged by a -C₀₋₂alkyl- linkage;

E¹ is CH, N, or CR⁶;

E² is CH₂, CHR, NH, NR, O, S, -S(O)-, or -S(O)₂-;

R¹ is halogen or C₁₋₄alkyl;
R², R³, R⁴, and R⁶ are each independently halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, or
hydrogen; and
R⁵ is H, CH₃, or CH₂CH₃..

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2. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, wherein A is N.

10 3. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is N;
D is C; and
E is NH.

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4. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is N;
D is C;
E is NH; and
20 X is -C₀₋₃alkyl-S-C₀₋₃alkyl-.

5. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, wherein

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A is N;
D is C;
E is NH;
X is -C₀₋₃alkyl-S-C₀₋₃alkyl-; and
B is a direct bond.

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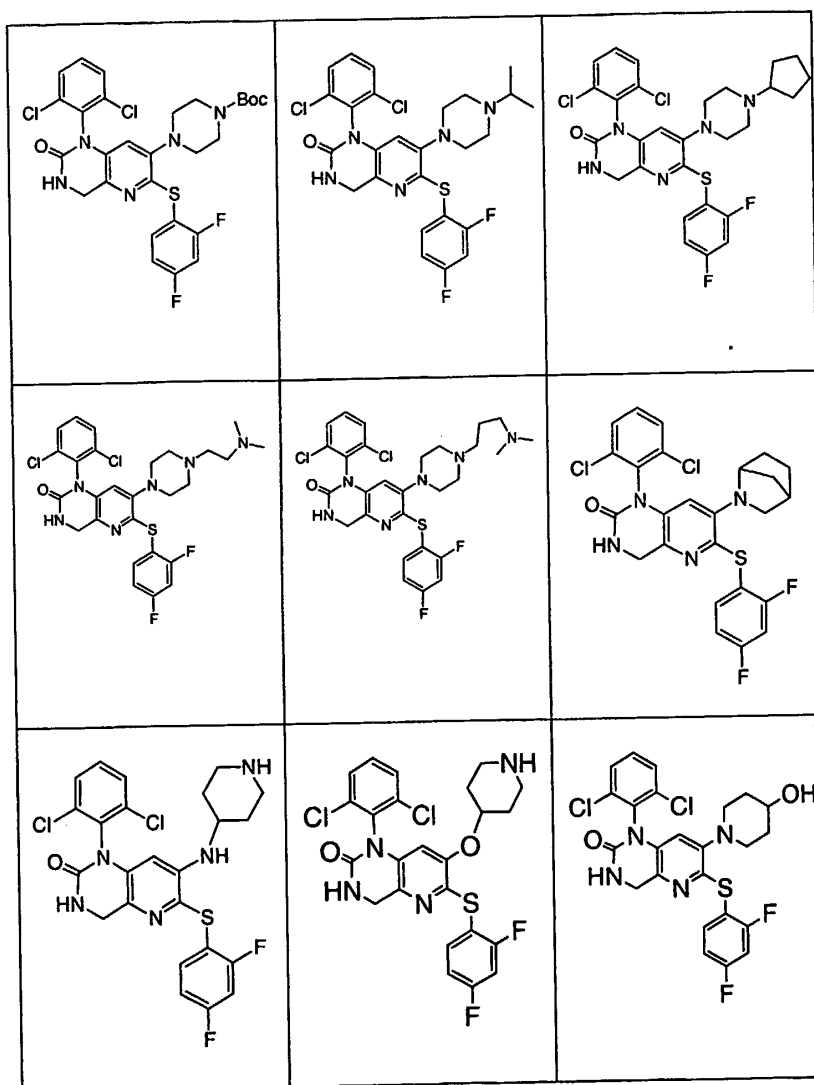
6. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, wherein

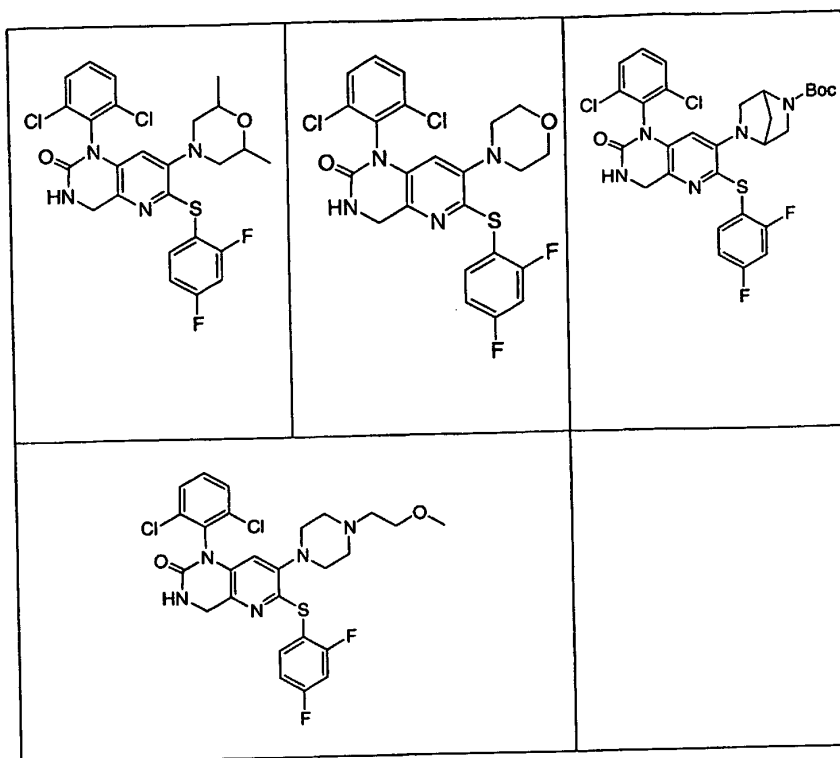
E¹ is N; and
E² is NR.

7. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein
E¹ is N;
E² is NR; and
5 one of n CH₂ and one of m CH₂ are bridged by a -C₀₋₂alkyl- linkage.
8. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein
E¹ is N; and
10 E² is O.
9. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein
E¹ is N; and
15 E² is CHR.
10. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein
A is N;
20 D is C;
E is NH;
X is -C₀₋₃alkyl-S-C₀₋₃alkyl-; and
B is NH.
11. The compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein
E¹ is CH; and
25 E² is NR.
12. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein
A is N;
30 D is C;
E is NH;
35 X is -C₀₋₃alkyl-S-C₀₋₃alkyl-; and

B is -C₀₋₃alkyl-O-C₀₋₃alkyl-

13. The compound according to claim 1, represented by





or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inert carrier and an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

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15. A method of treating pain comprising a step of administering an effective amount of the composition according to claim 14.

10 16. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, or gouty arthritis comprising a step of administering an effective amount of the composition according to claim 14.

15 17. A method of treating sepsis, septic shock, endotoxic shock, gram negative sepsis, toxic shock syndrome, adult respiratory distress syndrome, cerebral malaria, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, silicosis, pulmonary sarcoidosis, bone resorption diseases, osteoporosis, reperfusion injury, graft v. host rejection, allograft rejection, fever, myalgia due to infection, cachexia secondary to infection or

malignancy, cachexia secondary to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), AIDS, ARC (AIDs related complex), keloid formation, scar tissue formation, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, pyresis, or viral infections comprising a step of administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

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18. A method of treating inflamed joints, eczema, psoriasis, inflammatory skin conditions, inflammatory eye conditions, or pyresis comprising a step of administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.